

## First Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, August 15

Join us on August 15 for the premier of what will be a monthly service (every third Friday) featuring the beautiful musical talents of the Kabbalat Shabbat Ensemble directed by Marsha Attie. Singing together creates a sense of belonging and a commonality of experience. Sacred music connects us to our heritage, our history and K'lal Yisrael — the Jewish people everywhere. Come to services and welcome in Shabbat with song!

## Greeter Bunch Brunch

Sunday, July 20, 11 am – 1 pm

Ever thought about being a greeter? Want to learn what greeting is all about? The Greeter Bunch Brunch is a fantastic opportunity for members who have thought about greeting to come meet other greeters, learn what greeting is all about and how much fun it is! Joining the Greeter Corps is a good opportunity to get involved in CSZ, meet new people and give something back to the synagogue. Attending the Greeter Bunch Brunch is also an opportunity to appreciate CSZ's veteran greeters and hear how we might improve; what works and what doesn't work. The brunch will be at the synagogue and will include a tour of building along with some form of security training. For more information, contact Melanie Kushnir (x 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

## Preparing for the High Holidays?

Check out the CSZ Gift Shop for candlesticks, challah covers or whatever else you need!

## CSZ Queer Torah Study Project

### Open Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 7 – 8:30 pm

Help launch our new Queer Torah Study Project. This exciting new program is a follow-up to the stimulating scholar-in-residence weekend we shared with Rabbi Benay Lappe in February.

This project will both refine and expand how we read the Torah from an LGBT perspective. Study sessions will be organized around portions of the Tanach that are relevant to our community. Reading materials

will be given out in advance of each session so that participants can be prepared to discuss them. Each of the sessions will be videotaped and documented in book form, both for the use of CSZ and for wider distribution.

Please join us on Tuesday, July 8 for an open meeting in which you will learn more about the project and how you can get involved. You do not have to read Hebrew to participate. For more information, please contact Alan Foss (AAFOSS1@aol.com).

## Join Team CSZ for AIDS Walk SF!

Sunday, July 20, Golden Gate Park

Join this year's Team CSZ for the AIDS Walk San Francisco. AIDS Walk proceeds benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and dozens of other organizations providing essential services to those most in need and at risk throughout the Bay Area. Team CSZ participants will take on the challenge of raising funds for AIDS Walk by asking

friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors to sponsor them for each of the ten kilometers they will be walking.

If you would like to participate, please contact Melanie Kushnir (x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). When you RSVP, you will receive donation forms and registration materials. Let's make this year's Team CSZ the largest yet!

## There is No Messiah — And You're It

Saturday, August 16, 7:30 pm

Join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Rabbi Robert Levine for a special havdalah, followed by a reading and signing of Rabbi Levine's new book, *There is No Messiah — And You're It: The Stunning Transformation of Judaism's Most Provocative Idea*.

The concept of the messiah arouses discord between Jews and Christians. In classical Judaism, God will ultimately send the messiah to raise the dead and open the way toward the restoration of Eden. For Christians, the second coming of Jesus, the true Messiah, will bring final redemption and the kingdom of God on earth. Levine, a Reform rabbi, ably explores these differences while emphasizing Jewish notions of

the messiah and their history. He traces the stories of the false messiahs such as Bar Kochba in the first century, Sabbatai Tzvi in the 17th century and Jacob Frank in the 18th century. He also examines the question of whether or not the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, was the messiah, as some of his followers believe. Throughout the book, Levine explains his own idea about the messiah by exhorting his readers to accept responsibility for "the messianic mission intended for each one of us." He argues that individual efforts to follow the mitzvot (commandments) constitute the kind of "messianic behavior" that will prepare for the Messiah and bring about the Messianic Age. His inspirational emphasis on personal

*continued on page 9*



# Minyan: Ten Principles for Living a Life of Integrity

## Shacharit Service, Potluck Oneg Lunch and Discussion

August 16, Service at 10 am,  
Oneg at noon

Join service leaders Andy Fyne and Marc Wernick as we explore Rabbi Rami Shapiro's book, *Minyan: Ten Principles for Living a Life of Integrity* in our morning prayer service and then at a potluck lunch (outside in Dolores Park if it is nice!) with discussion.

*Minyan* draws on the eighteenth-century Chasidic tradition of the Baal Shem Tov and his followers. We will integrate readings and a participatory drash/discussion into our service using Shapiro's tenfold path. The ten practices of Minyan are med-

itation, repetition of a sacred phrase, inspirational reading, attention to the present moment, generosity, kindness performed with no thought of reward, dreamwork, ethical consumption, self-perfection and celebration of the Sabbath. Shapiro places the self as a necessary link in a community, thereby providing us with the refuge of solitude along with the power and love of community.

Reading the book prior to the service is recommended but not required.

Please join us on August 16 for this special Shabbat experience that will explore how to apply the wisdom of the ancient sages to our lives to bring us greater spiritual fulfillment.

# Self-Actualizing into the Jewish New Year

## An Invitation for Partnership - for Spiritual Growth

Tuesdays, August 19 - October 14, 7 - 9 pm

(There will be no class meetings on September 23 and October 7)

Led by Rabbi Angel

This is an invitation to create a community that supports people as they discover and follow their inner truth toward spiritual growth. Beginning in the month of Elul and meeting through Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, we will draw upon the spiritual renewal intentions of the Jewish calendar.

Join us in creating a community that is open, inclusive and embracing of all sexual orientations:



- To draw upon the sources of guidance that surround us
- To ignite and cultivate insights and inspiration
- To develop awareness that is wise and compassionate
- To learn to incorporate it consciously into our lives

Our partnership will allow you to move beyond a structured belief system in order to access your own innate wisdom to enhance your personal well-being, joyfully create fulfillment and align your personality, sexuality and choices with your soul. We will be accomplishing this through meditation, spiritual text study, sharing and learning as a group.

Please RSVP Melanie Kushnir (x305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)) by August 15. Cost is \$36 for members/\$72 for nonmembers.

## 5764 High Holiday Schedule

Erev Rosh Hashanah	September 26, Lowell High School
First Day Rosh Hashanah	September 27, Lowell High School
Second Day Rosh Hashanah	September 28, CSZ
Kol Nidre	October 5, Herbst Theater
Yom Kippur	October 6, Herbst Theater

# New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

**Joel Springer**

**Kim and Justyn Haveson-Lezin**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## The Jewish Gaily Forward

July/August 2003  
Volume 26, Issue 11

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org). Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the Forward as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a Forward subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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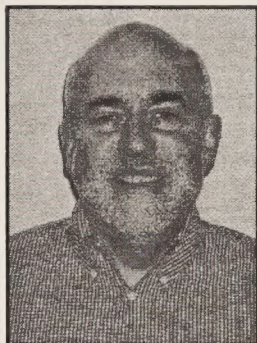


## President's Column

# After 25 Years, What Next?

by Arthur Slepian

This is my first President's Column for the JGF. As I write this, my term has not yet officially begun and our 25th anniversary celebration is still a few weeks away. By the time you will be reading this, we will have had our celebration and I trust that many of you were able to come and enjoy it.



I plan to use these columns over the next two years to report on and discuss issues of interest, engage you with questions and offer an open invitation to send some emails or phone calls my way. I thought I'd start, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, with some thoughts about our future. It is a topic way too large to cover in one column, so consider this the first of many installments.

For me, thinking about our future begins with an acknowledgment of what a complex and amazing institution a synagogue is, and the myriad of reasons that draw people to it. We come to shul to express our grandest dreams for repairing the world and for the most intimate moments of spiritual awakening. We come to learn and to pray. We come in the hope of passing our traditions and values on to our children. We come to celebrate our greatest joys and to find solace in our times of deepest sorrow. We argue with each other about the biggest questions of the day, and about the kind of pastries we should have at Oneg Shabbat. And in the process, a good shul becomes a community that cares for one another and for those around us who are in need.

At Sha'ar Zahav, we aspire to all that and even more. Our founders had a unique vision of a shul where our identities as gay and lesbian would be brought into sacred harmony with our identities as Jews. A shul with a unique voice in the Jewish community and in the world. For more than 25 years there has been remarkable achievement, the symbols of which are all around us. Our co-founder Daniel Chesir is now the president of our UAHC region, and two other past presidents serve on national and regional boards of the Reform movement. Reuben Zellman is going to rabbinic school, blazing a trail in one sense, yet also following in the footsteps of several other gifted congregants. Our homegrown siddurim have had an impact on the liturgy of congregations throughout the country. As Psalm 118 says, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." LGBT Jews are now openly welcomed in many Reform congregations, and even some Conservative ones.

What does all this progress mean for the future of CSZ? When we think about the next 25 years, what will be the passion that inspires us and the glue that binds such a diverse group together as a community?

Can we articulate a vision for our future as bold and courageous as the one our founders had 25 years ago? We need to ask ourselves these questions because we and the world will continue to change.

I believe that this journey of exploring what we might become can and will be an exhilarating one. I do not know where it will ultimately lead, nor do I think it is the role of leadership to provide the answers. But I know we must start out down the road with respect for all of the voices that need to be heard. In the words of Pirkei Avot, "It is not upon us to finish the task, neither are we free not to begin."

In that spirit, I pose this question: What makes you passionate about CSZ? What do you love about our shul that makes you care about its future? So ...let me hear from you. As with general communication with me, e-mail is preferred, ([cszpres@pacbell.net](mailto:cszpres@pacbell.net)), but feel free to telephone as well (415/452-9143). Weekday evenings and Sundays are best.

## Shabbat Batya

Celebrate our long-time member

Batya Kalis

on the occasion of her 80th birthday  
at a special oneg on Friday, July 11.

For more information or  
to help with the event,  
contact Lonnie Weiss  
(415/255-1641 or [i.weiss@attbi.com](mailto:i.weiss@attbi.com)).

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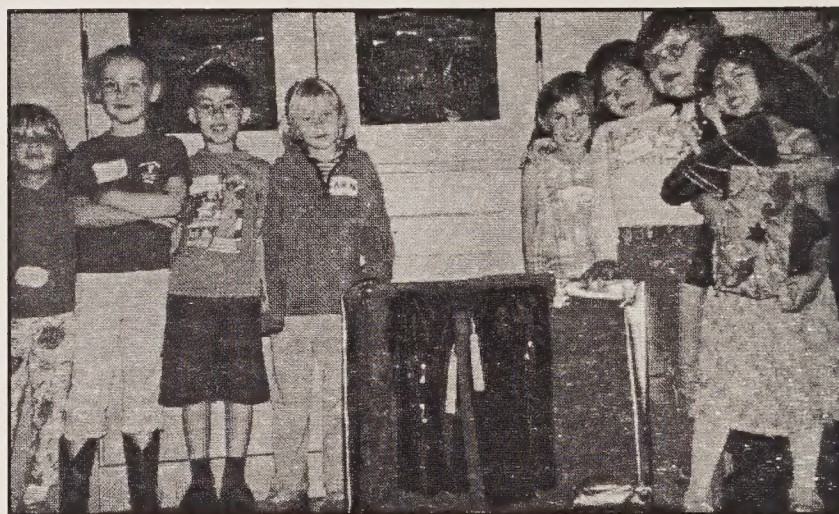


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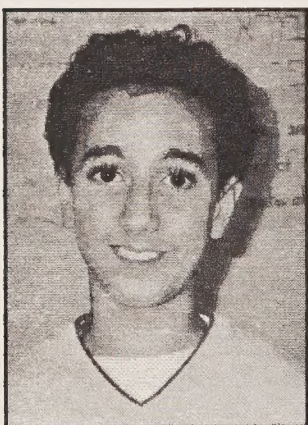
# Kadimah Students Create and Dedicate Midrash Torah

Students of the *Ge'avah* (Pride) class dedicated their extraordinary handmade class Torah at Saturday morning services on May 17. The "Midrash Torah" was a year-long project created by the kindergarten/first grade students with their teacher Ila Cherney. As a part of their study of Torah stories, from Creation to the Exodus, students drew Torah panels with their interpretations of the text. At the end of the year, students linked the panels into a scroll and constructed the Torah right down to the breastplate and *yad*. In a family education day, *Ge'avah* parents, with project specialist Mira Waser, created a beautiful *Aron HaKodesh* (Holy Ark) to house the children's creation. The children shared their Torah with the congregation in a processional during services, followed by an unrolling of the scroll and blessing of the children and their Torah by service leader Dev Felder Noily. This wonderful creation is housed within the ark in the upstairs side chapel. Please take a moment to view it next time you are at the synagogue.



from left to right: Vera Williamson, Sophie Rinkoff-Murland, Joshua Muller, Anya Prussin, Emma Pines-Schwartz, Miriam Katz, Ila Cherney, Joanie Shalit.

## Gabe Press Becker's Bar Mitzvah



On Saturday, July 5 (Parashat Korach), Gabriel Press Becker will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Gabe is in the seventh grade at Hoover Middle School in San Francisco. His favorite subject is English because "you get to express how you feel about things. You get to interpret things." After school, when not spending time with friends in West Portal,

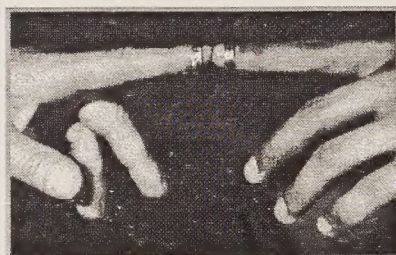
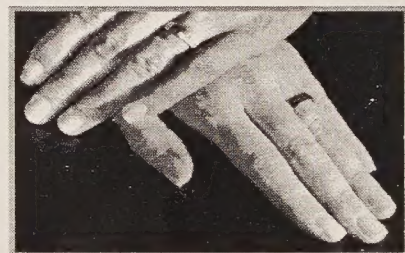
Gabe attends acting classes at New Conservatory Theater. He hopes to become an actor someday.

Gabe enjoyed the process of preparing for his Bar Mitzvah. He especially enjoyed working with his tutor, Steve Mazer, who, Gabe says, is "so cool" and whose guidance

has been "great." Gabe said he liked getting answers to questions he's had for a long time and it was very interesting to discover how a religious service is structured. He also enjoyed learning his parashah, which deals with the important subjects of jealousy and inequality. "It's been a really nice experience," Gabe said, "and I think it will go well."

We wish a heartfelt mazel tov to Gabe and his moms, Ellen Press and Bobbie Becker.

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# Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



## Family Kabbalat Shabbat

**Fridays, July 11 and August 1, 6:15 pm**

Meet, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then stay for Friday night services. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck. Please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. Be a part of the ruach (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

## Baby Chavurah

**Sundays, July 13 and August 10  
10 am to noon**

Bring those under-twos to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. In July, we'll be at the home of Sue Bojdak and Deb Yates. August location TBA. Look for directions in the weekly email. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets the second Sunday of each month.

## Tot Shabbat

**Saturdays, July 26 and August 23  
10:30 am to noon**

Tot Shabbat is happening all summer long. Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your two to five year olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and Jewish family fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist.

Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

## Kadimah Registration

Kadimah registration packets should already be in your mailbox. If you have not received Kadimah registration materials for the 2003-04/5764 school year, please contact the Education Office. Children are eligible to begin Kadimah at age 5, welcome to join Kadimah at any time and required to attend Kadimah for at least three years in order to complete their b'nei mitzvah train-

ing. If you have questions about Kadimah or about your child's Kadimah participation, please contact Sue Bojdak (x302 or [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)). We look forward to having you as a part of this dynamic learning community in the new year 5764.

Kadimah Registration Deadline is  
August 15

Early Bird Discount forms due by  
July 31

## High Holidays Childcare Changes Afoot

As you read the enclosed High Holiday childcare materials, you will notice a few changes to how High Holiday childcare will be run. Responding to logistical challenges and fiscal concerns, there are changes to the hours, fee structure and programmatic structure for both older (5-12) and younger (0-4) children. Those changes are as follows:

- There will be no childcare during Family Services. Childcare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings will begin at the conclusion of Family Services.
- There is no longer an expectation that children enrolled in Kadimah attend Children's Programming on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur morning. Kadimah students will have roles in Family Services. They will be strongly encouraged to attend and participate in those services.
- There will be a fee for all childcare sessions for children of all ages.
- The program for older children (5-12) will be a combination of High Holiday related activities and structured free time.
- Older children are strongly encouraged to attend the main services with their parents for the duration of their attention span.
- The younger children's program (0-4) will be divided, with an area for babies and an area for tots.
- There will be a brief story/singing circle during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

mornings for tots and babies and High Holiday related art activities available for tots. The rest of their program will be unstructured.

It is the hope of the Education Office and the Children's Education Board that these changes will make High Holiday childcare a better experience for our kids by focusing their energies for shorter periods of time with stronger content and then allowing them to be the energetic children that they are. At the same time, it places emphasis on the High Holidays as a family experience. Finally, it creates a program that is easier to manage and more fiscally sound. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of these changes, please don't hesitate to contact Sue Bojdak during the summer months.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of  
Family and Children's Education  
(415/861-6932 x302 or  
[educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org))  
for more information about any  
of these programs.

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# The Israel Committee

*Deepening our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel*

## Cultivating Progressive Judaism in Israel

*From a speech by Janet Marder, rabbi of Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills and president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform Movement's rabbinic organization.*

Words cannot convey the depth of my amazement at the greatest and most beautiful miracle of our time. I speak of the State of Israel, first flowering of our redemption. We are the generation privileged to live in the time when the Jewish people has come back to life, its dry bones risen from the grave. The pain and sadness of Israel's present struggles must never obscure the drama of this extraordinary historical moment.

One who goes out in the springtime and sees the flowering trees must not fail to say a blessing, must not fail to cultivate and nourish emerging life. We who are alive this day to witness the miracle of Israel have an awesome task: to labor until the harvest comes in. We share with all lovers of Israel the urgent sense that we are charged with her survival. But as Reform Jews we sense another imperative as well. There on the soil of Eretz Yisrael a new kind of Judaism struggles to be born: one that is firmly anchored in Torah, but meets the modern world with an open mind; one that cherishes a distinctive identity, but greets its neighbors with an open hand.

Our movement has begun to flower. Progressive congregations are springing up throughout the country; Israeli Jews are hungry for what we have to offer. Incredibly, thirty-seven Israeli students are preparing for the rabbinate at HUC in Jerusalem. These new teachers and spiritual leaders will shape the very soul of Israel. But this will not happen unless we give them the resources that only we can provide. This means investing our effort and money so progressive Jewish values can flourish in the Jewish state. ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, is the system we have chosen to support our Progressive movement worldwide. It is voluntary, dependent on the freewill offerings of North American Reform Jews. Its effectiveness depends entirely on our ability to educate and inspire our constituents to join ARZA. A focused effort on our part, a modest donation on their parts, could translate into millions of dollars to build our movement.

No one will do this work except us, the leaders of Reform Judaism in North America. We understand the power of this historical moment, and the opportunity we have to do something magnificent. We have the power to mobilize our communities - to show them why Israel matters, and why Progressive Judaism in Israel is urgently important to us. This is the season we have waited for; this is our chance to give life to the values we say we embrace, and now we must bring in the harvest.

*For more information about the Israel Committee please contact co-chairs Steve Mazer ([steve@rezam.com](mailto:steve@rezam.com)) or Miki Goralsky ([goralsky@access4less.net](mailto:goralsky@access4less.net)).*

## CSZ shares LGBT Jewish Experience with Israeli Visitors

In the past two months, CSZ played host to two groups of visiting Israelis, discussing Jewish diversity and sharing our experiences of being LGBT Jews.

On May 14, more than a dozen students of the G'vanim program spoke with member Al Baum, Educator Sue Bojdak and Kenny Altman, president of Congregation Beth Shalom. The distinguished group of scholars, artists, educational professionals and others are a part of a San Francisco Jewish Community Federation supported program for the study and promotion of Jewish pluralism in Israel. The goal of G'vanim is to train key Israeli professionals working in a variety of areas to promote the cause of pluralism, by enriching their understanding of the issues relating to this area in Israel and by developing and implementing action programs in the field.

The goal is to promote Jewish pluralism and foster Jewish identity among a wide spectrum of Israeli target audiences. Their visit to CSZ was part of a one-week US trip including NY and San Francisco. This was an extraordinary opportunity to share our experiences as LGBT Jews with people who have influence in a variety of professional settings in Israel.

On June 2, a dozen young Israelis serving as counselors for Camp Tawonga met with members Allan Berenstein and Howard Steiermann, Educator Sue Bojdak and Program Director Melanie Kushner to learn about the Bay Area Jewish community. The program helped prepare them for serving our community this summer. Panelists discussed LGBT and Jewish identity formation, American Jewish attitudes toward Israel and the diversity of our community.

Our visitors were struck by the openness and flexibility of our Jewish community. At the same time, they challenged American perceptions of Israeli religious society, citing both the advances of non-Orthodox Jewish study and religious practice and also the diversity of the Orthodox community in Israel.

Both visits were arranged with the Israel Center, a division of the Jewish Community Federation.

## How We Respond in the Face of Conflict: An Interfaith Panel

**Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 - 9:00 pm**  
**San Francisco Zen Center, 300 Page Street**

Please join clergy and other religious practitioners for this important round-table discussion. A variety of faith traditions, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian (of various denominations) and Jewish will be present. The central questions are all variations of "How shall we, as people of faith, find meaning and solace in times of war and other tragedy?" The question of a primary response, not first as political activism, but within our own hearts, will be the subject of the evening's discussion.

For more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (x305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).



# July 2003

# Tammuz/Av 5763

September Deadline: Monday, August 4, 5pm

## Articles

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment via email to: [newsletter@shaarzahav.org](mailto:newsletter@shaarzahav.org). *No late submissions will be accepted.*

## Advertising

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or [froslyn@earthlink.net](mailto:froslyn@earthlink.net)). To place a classified ad, call the office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tammuz-1	2 Tammuz-2	3 Tammuz-3	4 Tammuz-4	5 Tammuz-5
					Independence Day 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Tiela Chalmers, Rabbi Angel and Gabe Press Becker Weekly Parashah Num. 16:1-18:32
6 Tammuz-6	7 Tammuz-7	8 Tammuz-8	9 Tammuz-9	10 Tammuz-10	11 Tammuz-11	12 Tammuz-12
		7 pm CSZ Queer Torah Study Project		6:30 pm Va'ad Meeting	6:15 pm Family Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Ron Edelman Weekly Parashah Num. 19:1-25:9
13 Tammuz-13	14 Tammuz-14	15 Tammuz-15	16 Tammuz-16	17 Tammuz-17	18 Tammuz-18	19 Tammuz-19
10 am Baby Chavurah					7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Sandy O'Neill	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services  Weekly Parashah Num 25:10-30:1
20 Tammuz-20	21 Tammuz-21	22 Tammuz-22	23 Tammuz-23	24 Tammuz-24	25 Tammuz-25	26 Tammuz-26
9 am Team CSZ in SF AIDS Walk 11 am Greeter Brunch	7 pm Keshet Committee Meeting				7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Anna Lichtenberg	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Tot Shabbat Weekly Parashah Num 30:2-36:12; 28:9-15
27 Tammuz-27	28 Tammuz-28	29 Tammuz-29	30 Av - 1	31 Av - 2		
				6:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting		



# August 2003

# Av/Elul 5763

August 16, 7:30 pm

There is no Messiah - and You're It!

Havdalah and Book Discussion

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Av- 3	2 Av- 4
					6:15 pm Family Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services Weekly Parashah Deut: 1:1-3:22
3 Av- 5	4 Av- 6	5 Av- 7	6 Av- 8	7 Av- 9	8 Av- 10	9 Av- 11
			Erev Tish'ah B'av	Tish'ah B'av 1 pm Office opens	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Daniel Chesir	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Ron Edelman Weekly Parashah Deut: 3:23-7:11
10 Av- 12	11 Av- 13	12 Av- 14	13 Av- 15	14 Av- 16	15 Av- 17	16 Av- 18
10 am Baby Chavurah				6:30 pm Va'ad Meeting	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Marsha Attie and the Kabbalat Shabbat Ensemble	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services Noon Potluck Oneg and discussion Weekly Parashah Deut 7:12-11:25
17 Av- 19	18 Av- 20	19 Av- 21	20 Av- 22	21 Av- 23	22 Av- 24	23 Av- 25
	7 pm Keshet Committee Meeting	7 pm Self-Actualizing into the Jewish New Year			7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Jeff Piade and Alan Gordon	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Tot Shabbat Weekly Parashah Deut 11:26-16:17
24/31 Av- 26/3	25 Av- 27	26 Av- 28	27 Av- 29	28 Av- 30	29 Elul- 1	30 Elul -2
		7 pm Self-Actualizing into the Jewish New Year		6:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Ora Prochovnik Weekly Parashah Deut 16:18-21:9





# From the Jewish Toolkit

## Why do Jews Argue All the Time?

### (A guest appearance by Aunt Yente)

A reader recently asked, "Why do Jews argue all the time?" The Jewish Tool Kit wasn't quite sure how to answer this question, but she remembered that her wise Aunt Yente had once written on this very subject. This is what Aunt Yente said:

"So what do you mean, we argue all the time? What kind of thing is that to say? What makes you the big authority on peaceable communication? Hmmm, Aunt Yente is starting to think that maybe you have a point. We do seem to enjoy our disagreements. As it is written, two Jews, three opinions.

"So let Aunt Yente answer your question. Jews argue because things matter to us. Our religion teaches there is one God (about this we try not to argue), and there are many paths between God and the world. But what is right and wrong in any particular situation is not always so clear. So how do you make clear? You argue. Now Aunt Yente has friends who are Quakers, and when they disagree in their community, they sit together and pray quietly, and they wait for God to help them decide. Their community makes no decision until everyone agrees. Aunt Yente has the greatest respect for such decisions, and for people who so value agreement and so trust in God. But wonderful as it is, this is not the Jewish way. One of our most important heritages is a respect for seichel – what translates badly as "common sense." The whole idea of the Talmud is that we can figure out what right is and what wrong is, by logic. But because your logic and your friend's logic may be a little different sometimes, so you try to persuade, and they try to persuade, and you

maybe start arguing a little, until (hopefully before any dishes get broken), the truth, as well as we can figure it, is brought out.

"But you shouldn't think that Aunt Yente is encouraging every kind of argument. Aunt Yente will tell you that the Talmud talks about two kinds of argument: those that are for the sake of Heaven, and those that are not. There are things that are worth arguing about, and there are things that are not; and even more important, there is derech erez – common decency – in every kind of argument. Is the intent to figure out what's right, or is the intent to make someone uncomfortable? Do people make clear that they are arguing their own opinion, or do they claim that they are saying the absolute truth? Aunt Yente, of course, has very strong opinions, and it is true that she is always right; but even she tries to listen. Wanna make something of it?" ---Aunt Yente.

*Aunt Yente dispensed her wit and wisdom in the Jewish Gaily Forward for many years. The Jewish Tool Kit will invite her back for guest appearances from time to time. Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit can be sent to [JewishToolKit@attglobal.net](mailto:JewishToolKit@attglobal.net).*

### Rabbi Angel's Recommended Readings

*Arguing With God: A Jewish Tradition* by Anson Laytner. Jason Aronson Publishers.

*Facing the Abusing God: A Theology of Protest* by David Blumenthal and Rita Nakashima Brock. Westminster John Knox Press.

### There is no Messiah

*continued from page 1*

accountability offers a distinctive message.

Rabbi Angel said this book is "A poignant and inspiring work of theological understanding. Levine blends the personal with the profound and challenges us to partner with God by doing what we can to transform our society."

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Melanie Kushnir (x305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).

### Sha'ar Zahav's Community Retreat

Ninety-four members of the Sha'ar Zahav community, ranging in age from 4 months to over 50 years, enjoyed a weekend of prayer, Torah study, singing and community at Walker Creek Ranch in the hills outside of Petaluma from May 30 to June 1. There was also swimming, kickball, water balloon play and s'mores plus meditation, hiking and arts and crafts. In this extraordinary communal environment children could run free, adults could relax in the sunshine and the only place you had to be on time was the dining hall. We saw deer, caught lizards and chased jack rabbits while breathing in the fresh air of the country, before dragging ourselves back to the freeway and toward home. Don't miss your chance to join in this idyllic adventure next year.

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# Social Action Connection

by Susan Lubeck

## Pesach Food Drive

Sha'ar Zahav's first-ever Pesach food drive was a success. Thanks to Patricia Lin for conceptualizing the drive and making it happen. Thanks also to everyone who contributed. As part of our Pesach observance,

our congregation contributed two overflowing bins of food to the Food Bank.

## NCLR Dinner

Thanks to Lonnie Weiss, Sha'ar Zahav was represented by two tables of members and friends at the annual dinner for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. It was a wonderful celebration of activism. Attendees were particularly moved by the presence and accomplishments of Barbara Gittings, who received an award acknowledging her forty-plus years of activism in the LGBT movement. Gittings spearheaded the campaign to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association. In a short film shown at the dinner, there was a scene showing her at her pro-gay exhibit — with photos of real homosexuals living normal lives — at the APA annual convention. Imagine the courage it took to go there and buttonhole reluctant or hostile psychiatrists and talk to them about being gay. The campaign succeeded in 1973. In honor of Barbara and others who have paved the way, pledge to take one action this month to advance civil and human rights.

## One Idea For Action...

As of this writing, Equality California (formerly CAPE) has two important bills that cleared the Appropriations Committee in the legislature and are headed to the floor. Legislators are getting pressured by anti-gay groups to vote against these bills.

• AB 205, the Domestic Partners Rights & Responsibilities Act of 2003, will end most state discrimination against LGBT families by extending the overwhelming majority of legal benefits and obligations attached to civil marriage to same-sex couples who register as domestic partners with the state.

• AB 17, the Equal Benefits bill, will ensure that tax dollars are not spent on contracts with companies who discriminate against domestic partners through their company benefits programs.

For current information, check out: <http://www.eqca.org/takeaction/>

## And Another...

The folks at Most Holy Redeemer could especially use help in two areas on Wednesdays: greeting guests and food prep on early Wednesday afternoons. "We keep thinking of meals we'd like to serve (lasagna comes to mind) that aren't especially complicated but require more prep time than we typically have. If we had a couple of people willing to come in at 2 or 2:30 to peel, chop and parboil, they could hang up their aprons and go home when the rest of the team troops in from work to throw the meal together. Want to get in touch with your inner sous-chef? Have a few early afternoon hours to give us, even just now and then?"

To support the great work at Most Holy Redeemer with homeless neighbors, general help with serving, cooking, clean-up and socializing with guests are also always welcome. For more information, contact Craig Persiko ([craig@redcottage.com](mailto:craig@redcottage.com) or 415/621-6981).

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## May Va'ad Minutes

Ray Bernstein delivered the d'var Torah on Parashat Emor. While it's appealing to the modern reader that we are commanded to apply the law equally to the Israelite and the stranger, it is disappointing that God spurns the sacrifices of the visibly imperfect. But even if God gets to say that only the fabulous-looking are worthy to make sacrifices, we are not God, so it would be best for us to be open to all of our members' varied and imperfect abilities, appearances, donations and sacrifices.

Marianne Balin delivered the Membership Report. Greeters will be at any event that is open to the public. Staff and the members of the Keshet, Membership and Public Relations committees will develop print materials for new members.

Rabbi Angel introduced her initiative to develop the congregation's musical talents, to increase volunteer participation and to create a special sound by bringing in Marsha Attie as musical director for the coming year. Members of the Shabbat ensemble will provide a continual musical flow at services and occasional kavanot. These musically enhanced services will take place on the third Friday of the month. This is an experiment, implemented by the rabbi. Feedback should go to the rabbi, the chair of the Ritual Committee and seasoned members of the ensemble. The goals are to improve worship experience and to recruit more people to participate.

Rabbi Angel stated that many members are struggling with infertility and with the longing to adopt. Other members ask us to remember that childless families are still families. The rabbi asked us for ideas on responding to these needs.

# Synagogue Information

## Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street

415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)

office@shaarzahav.org (email) • <http://www.shaarzahav.org> (web)

### CSZ Staff

#### Rabbi

Camille Shira Angel (x301)  
• [rabbianangel@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbianangel@shaarzahav.org)

#### Interim Executive Director

James Carlson (x308)  
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#### Program Director

Melanie Kushnir (x305)  
• [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)

#### Director of Children's and Family Education

Sue Bojdak (x302)  
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#### Kadimah Head Teacher

Phyllis Mintzer

#### Administrative Assistant

Steven Angelides (x304)  
• [steven@shaarzahav.org](mailto:steven@shaarzahav.org)

#### Rabbi's Assistant

Gabby Volodarsky (x310)  
• [gabby@shaarzahav.org](mailto:gabby@shaarzahav.org)

#### Membership Assistant

Alison Gilbert (x316)  
• [agilbert@shaarzahav.org](mailto:agilbert@shaarzahav.org)

#### Officers

President, Arthur Slepian  
(415/452-9143)  
[cszpres@pacbell.net](mailto:cszpres@pacbell.net)  
Vice President, Rose Katz  
Vice President, Alex Ingersoll  
Treasurer, Gail Ludwig  
Recorder, Karen Schiller

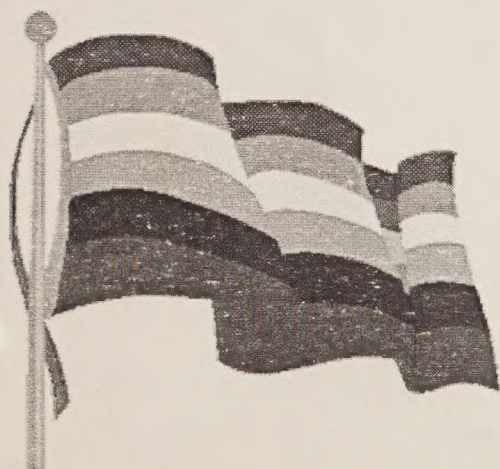
#### Va'ad Board Members

Lisa Katz (ex officio)  
Marianne Balin  
Barbara Cymrot  
Ron Edelman  
Tony Harris  
Leslie Kane  
Ron Miguel  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Rachel Timoner  
Marc Wernick

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

### Committee Chairs

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge  
*Baby Chavurah*, by committee  
*Bequests and Donations*, open  
*Bikkur Cholim*, open  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Building and Grounds*, Beth Sousa  
*Bylaws*, open  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruthy Talansky  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Dues*, Tiela Chalmers  
*East Bay Chavurah*, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler  
*Endowment Fund*, David Stein  
*Experiment in Congregational Education*, Dan Bellm  
*Finance*, Gail Ludwig  
*Fine Arts*, Barbara Cymrot  
*Fund for the Future*, Laura Lowe  
*Fundraising*, Open  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Israel Committee*, Miki Goralsky and Steve Mazer  
*Keshet/Connection*, Marianne Balin and Geri Kahn  
*Leadership Development*, Diana Buchbinder  
*Library*, Bernard Schertzer  
*Long-Range Planning*, Claudia Bernard  
*Membership Outreach*, Tony Harris  
*Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign*, Deborah Udin  
*Newsletter*, Karen Schiller  
• [newsletter@shaarzahav.org](mailto:newsletter@shaarzahav.org)  
*Outreach*, Mark Gershman and Daphne Stuart  
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*Rabbi Liaison*, Ora Prochovnick  
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*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman  
*Web and I.T.*, Drew Parker-Rose



**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews



# Donations

## *25th Anniversary Donation*

**Gerald B. Rosenstein.**

**Florence and Steven Nacamulli**

- in honor of CSZ and 25 years of pride!

**Mark Gershman and Tony Harris.**

## *AIDS Fund Donation*

**Allan Berenstein**

- in memory of Mark Feldman and Bob Mackey.

## *Children's Education Fund*

**Lele Field and Rachel Field**

- in honor of the life of their grandmother, Jacqueline Walton.

**David and Cecile Winters**

- in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.

## *Fund for the Future*

**Gabby Volodarsky**

- in memory of Arnold Weiss.

**Steven Elman and Tom Holt**

- in honor of the arrival of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

## *General Fund*

**Irene Ogus**

- in honor of Eileen Lynette and Charlene O'Neill.  
- in honor of Rob Tat.

**Laurie Brown and Lana Dobson**

- in honor of Gail and Jordan Brown, our wonderful family. We are blessed by your love and support.

**Daniel Lahn**

- in honor of Isabel Lahn-Schroeder and Deena R. Lahn.  
- in honor of Mary M. Schroeder.

**Avraham Giannini**

- in honor of Larry Best, Ming Leung and Jasmine.

**Michael Sarid**

- in honor of Mark Gershman.

**Marshall Feldman**

- in memory of Margot Trieger.

**Lawrence Helman**

- in memory of his father, Simon Helman.

**Jean MacLachlan**

- in memory of her sister, Avtar K. Khalsa.

**Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe**

- in memory of their grandfather, Jacob Bezmar.

**Joseph Piade and Lois Piade**

- with grateful appreciation for our family's aliyot.

**Clarissa Kripke and Gail Ludwig**

- in honor of CSZ staff for all their hard work and members of the Finance Committee for their dedication to our community.

**Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath**

- in honor of Steven Polsky and Mark Oliver's new son.

**Jeffrey Schneider**

- in gratitude for the Service of Lament.

**Bettie and Martin Cymrot**

- in honor of Barbara Cymrot's nomination to the Va'ad.

**Lele and Rachel Field**

- in memory of Paul Sullivan.

**Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner**

- in honor of Daniel Caleb Golinski.

**Steven Elman and Tom Holt**

- in honor of Dev Felder Noily's acceptance into rabbinic school.

*In Honor of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman*

**Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner.**

**Gilda and Melvin Winiker.**

**Sue Bojdak and Debra Yates.**

**Ron and Ruth Miguel.**

## *Inclusive Liturgy Fund*

**Miriam Trentman and Robert Morelli**

- in honor of Batya Kalis's 80th birthday.

## *Library Fund*

**William Goldstein**

- in honor of Mark Mackler's new position.

## *Mishkan Donation*

**Nancy Kates**

- in honor of Meredith Rose  
- in honor of Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart.  
- in honor of Ann Wernstone.

## *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

**Lisa Szer**

- in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**Miriam Trentman and Robert Morelli**

- in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**Phyllis and George Mintzer**

- in memory of Rose Mintzer.

**Allan Berenstein**

- in memory of Duff Kreitzberg and Mirtha Beal.

**Irene Ogus.**

**Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn**

- in memory of Allan Kahn.

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**Nancy Kates.**

**Clarissa Kripke and Gail Ludwig.**

**Ray Bernstein.**

**Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter.**

**Ron Edelman.**

**Jeffrey Sherman.**

**Ron and Ruth Miguel.**

**Miriam Trentman and Robert  
Morelli.**

**Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.**

**CSZ teachers and staff.**

*In Memory of Edythe Lynn Wexler*

**Alison Gilbert.**

**Gabby Volodarsky.**

**Steven Angelides.**

**Pieter de Haan and Ruth Rainero.**

**Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath.**

## Condolences

**Nancy Silverrod**, on the death of her  
grandmother, Ann Cherin.

**Kirk McDonald and Steven Schey**, on  
the death of their friend, Rick  
Slavsky.

**Terry Fletcher**, on the death of her  
friend, Crispin Morrison.

**Nancy Kates**, on the death of her friend,  
Charles Steele.

**Melanie Kushnir**, on the death of her  
aunt, Edythe Wexler.

**Susan Leff**, on the death of her  
grandfather, Murry Zuckerman.

**Jon Zimman**, on the death of his aunt,  
Barbara Fisher.

## Birthdays for July



- 1 Donald Abrams
- 2 Arno Crowe Rosenfeld  
Alan Foss  
Raphael Lubeck-Weiner
- 3 Noah Chasnoff  
Virginia Donohue
- 4 Robert Morelli  
Emma Pines-Schwartz  
Debra Yates
- 5 William Dwiggins  
Grant Stern
- 6 Steven Berlin  
Andrea Guerra

- 7 Roland Stern
- 7 Batya Kalis
- 8 Hannah Pines-Schwartz  
Benjamin Schalit  
Laura Trupin
- 9 Steve Elman  
Carolyn Pines  
Kayla Strassfeld
- 10 Stefan Bain  
Samuel Shelton
- 12 Naomi Zingman-Daniels
- 13 Janet Frankel  
Judith Holiber  
Deborah Udin  
Jonathan Zimman
- 14 Joan Shalit
- 15 Samuel Pannor-Watenpaugh  
Cheryl Price
- 16 Ann Aptaker  
Leah Goralsky Cohen  
Pookie Kochatchawan  
Lois Scott  
Samuel Walters
- 18 Nina Malakoff  
Gabriel Press Becker
- 19 Geraldine Barr  
Terry Fletcher  
Michael Schaffer
- 20 Joshua Margulies  
Maia Ross Trupin  
Jeffrey Sherman
- 23 Ron Edelman  
Nancy Meyer  
Jacob Pannor-Watenpaugh
- 24 Michael Sarid
- 25 Theodore Goldstein  
Evan Kaminsky
- 26 Benjamin Achtenberg
- 27 Laura Steele
- 28 Susan Schwartz
- 30 Prudence Carter  
Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner

## Birthdays for August

- 1 Geoff Benjamin  
Brian Grossman  
Molly Hornby-Finch
- 2 Mark McCormick
- 3 Maya Stern  
Mark Troy
- 4 Jonathan Funk
- 5 Ray Bernstein  
Dara Goldfein  
Ron Miguel
- 6 Nurit Robinson
- 7 Gail Ludwig  
Alan Michels  
Bob Nacamulli

- 8 Cheryl Sena
- 9 Rina Czapszys  
Allan Gold  
Jessica Israel  
Geoff Jaeger Skigen
- 11 Claudia Rosenbaum
- 12 Frank Yellin
- 13 Dean Goldfein  
Jonah Levy  
Lonnie Weiss
- 14 Barbara Frediani  
Marc Sosnick
- 15 Ellen Jacobs
- 16 William Jones  
Maxwell Malakoff
- 17 Myles Siltan
- 18 Janet Klein
- 19 Dan Bellm  
Paul Cohen  
Elizabeth Schaffer
- 20 Stacey Shuster  
Jonathan Zingman
- 23 Martin Rawlings
- 24 Joshua Shuster-Lefkowitz
- 25 Noah Nacamulli
- 26 Robert Cohen  
Shira Zingman-Daniels
- 27 Michael Chertok  
Kirsten Gustavson  
Charlotte Halloran-Couch
- 28 Micah Barth-Rogers
- 29 Ann Daniels  
Joshua Levy
- 30 Julia Bloomfield  
Joe Hample  
Frederick Hertz
- 31 Timothy Cassidy

## Yahrzeits

### July

- 1 Rachel Mailman
- 4 Ed Gabay
- 6 David Custead
- 9 Alexander Louis Konski
- 17 Steven P. Berman
- 25 Seth Miller
- 30 Phil Resnick

### August

- 2 David Kotch
- 4 Jordan Berger
- 5 Ernie Weinstein
- 6 Jay Platt
- 7 Mark Landsberger
- 16 Peter Rosenfeld
- 18 Elliot Schneck
- 23 Bill Schlichter
- 28 Jay Feinstein



## Anniversaries

### July



- 1 Roslyn Fuerman and Fern Leaf
- 4 Dvora Honigstein and Mary Sue Philip
- 8 Martin Spector and Alan Samuels
- 10 Elizabeth Katz and LeeAnn Thompson
- 12 Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara
- 25 Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak
- 25 Ron and Ruth Miguel
- 27 David Couch and Nancy Halloran

### August

- 7 Judith Wolfe and Jenny Hughes
- 12 Ali Cannon and Jessica Israel
- 15 Jonathan Funk and John Arnold
- 17 Wayne Bender and Kaz Kirishima
- 18 Ari Rosenberg and Dana Katz
- 27 Steven Elman and Tom Holt

## Oneg, Flower and Childcare Sponsorships



5/2

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Jeff Lilly** in memory of his father, Clyde Lilly.

Oneg was sponsored by **Martha Millison** in celebration of Eve Cohen and Richard Stanley's wedding.

Childcare was sponsored by **Lele and Rachel Field** in celebration of Jacqueline Walton's life.

5/9

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Jeff Piade and Lynne Piade** in celebration of their father Joseph's 80th birthday.

5/16

Oneg was sponsored by **Gary Winter** to commemorate his 50th birthday.

5/23

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Gabby Volodarsky, Alison Gilbert and Steven Angelides** in memory of Edythe Lynn Wexler.

5/30

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Lisa DiGirolamo and Janet Klein** in celebration of their son Asa's first birthday.

Oneg was sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** in memory of his father, Stanley Meyerson.

## Classifieds

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## Naches



### The Pruyn Goldstein

family on the naming of their daughter, Liana Jana.

**Richard Stanley and Eve Cohen** on the occasion of their wedding.

**Gary Winter** on his 50th birthday.

**Jeff Friedman** on receiving his PhD in Dance History and Theory from the University of California, Riverside and his acceptance of an assistant professor position in the Dance Department at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

**Ellie, Miki and Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen** on Ellie's legal adoption of Leah Minnie.

**Maureen, Ruthy and Gideon Quinn Talansky Bennett** on Maureen's legal adoption of Gideon Quinn.

**Michael Sarid** who was admitted into the MA degree program in Interdisciplinary Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He will be taking his coursework on-line, through the JTS Distance Learning Program.

**Mark Gershman and Tony Harris** on the birth of their niece, Alyssa Jade Gershman.

**Steve Mazer** on his new job with the California Department of Justice as manager of the Attorney General's office in San Francisco, and on his move to a new apartment just one block away from CSZ.

**Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver** on the arrival of their son, Gabriel Rainer Oliver-Polsky.

**Seth Skolnick** on being selected as the Jewish Community Federation's 2003-04 Federation Fellow.

The **Rosenberg-Katz** family on the naming of their son, Ezra Harris.

**Jonathan Pannor and Mike Watenpugh** on their new home in San Rafael.

**Andrea Guerra** on her entry into the covenant.